

Kucinich Subcommittee to Question Oil Pipeline Regulator

Repeated Leaks in Enbridge Oil Pipeline Cause Environmental Damage and Higher Gasoline Prices for Consumers in Midwest

Washington D.C. (September 16, 2010) – Domestic Policy Subcommittee Chairman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) today opened an inquiry into problems, including leaks, with a pipeline that brings the majority of crude oil to refineries in the Midwest and Canada. Recent disruptions of the pipeline operated by Enbridge Energy Partners have led to a dramatic spike in gas prices. Kucinich wrote to the Department of Transportation requesting a briefing on the matter.

The full text of the letter follows:

September 16, 2010

The Honorable Cynthia L. Quarterman

Administrator

U.S. Department of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

East Building, 2nd Floor

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Quarterman:

On July 26, 2010, and again on September 9, 2010, a pipeline owned and operated by Enbridge Energy Partners, L.P., ruptured in separate locations, spilling tens of thousands of gallons of crude oil into the environments of Marshall, Michigan and Romeoville, Illinois. The Lakehead pipeline system, in which the two spills occurred, spans from North Dakota to Buffalo, NY. This system is responsible for bringing the majority of Canadian crude oil into the U.S., serving all major refining centers in the Great Lakes region, Midwest and Ontario, Canada. Gasoline prices for consumers in the Great Lakes and Midwest have increased significantly since the second pipeline accident.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X. The Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee

requests a briefing on the incidents, their causes, and the operating track record of Enbridge Energy Partners.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich

Chairman

Domestic Policy Subcommittee

cc: Jim Jordan

Ranking Minority Member

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